

Application No.: 09/841,388  
Amendment Dated: July 31, 2006  
Reply to Office Action Dated: July 27, 2006

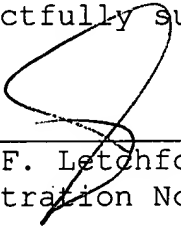
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Examiner's indication in the aforementioned Office Action that claims 1-5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance is gratefully acknowledged. Responsive thereto, claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22 and 23 have been canceled by the present Amendment. Accordingly, only claims 1-5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 17 and 18 remain pending in this application.

In view of the foregoing, the instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance and, therefore, early issuance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 31, 2006

  
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